

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

August 2011 – Week 4

Air Date: August 21 – August 27 (Sunday – Saturday)



### TITLE: TEXAS ATLANTIS

AUGUST 1882 AND A FLOOD CHANGES HISTORY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 24, 1882. TOM GREEN COUNTY. AFTER AN UNUSUALLY RAINY SUMMER, THE SOUTH CONCHO RIVER IS FULL.

ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> A MASSIVE RAINSTORM RAISES THE RIVER 45 FEET ABOVE NORMAL, AND OVERNIGHT A FLASH FLOOD SLAMS INTO THE COUNTY SEAT BEN FICKLIN.

BY MORNING THE TOWN IS WASHED AWAY; ONLY THE COURTHOUSE AND A FEW HOMES REMAIN. SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS – MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION – DROWN.

IT'S THE WORST FLASH FLOOD IN TEXAS HISTORY. THE COUNTY SEAT IS MOVED TO A SMALL TOWN LATER KNOWN AS SAN ANGELO.

BEN FICKLIN SINKS INTO HISTORY 129 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Katherine T. Waring, "BEN FICKLIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvb38>), accessed August 11, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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